

Amendments to Specification

At page 1, line 13, please amend as follows:

Chromium is an unavoidable trace element of the raw material used in the manufacture of cement clinker. In the oxidizing and alkaline burning conditions of the cement kiln, hexavalent chromium (CrVI) may form. Hexavalent chromium is a powerful dermal irritant that is considered extremely toxic due to its ~~hits~~ high oxidation potential and ability to penetrate human tissue. It can cause skin sensitization, allergic reactions, and eczema. Chromium VI has high solubility in water and is released when cement is mixed with water. Thus, wet cement poses a health issue for workers who come into contact with wet cement or concrete.

At page 10, line 12, please amend as follows:

Accordingly, further exemplary methods of the invention comprises ~~comprising~~: combining a cement with (1) a hydroxylamine, hydrazine, or the salt or derivative thereof, as mentioned above, with (2) an oxygen scavenger selected from the group consisting of an ascorbic acid or salt (e.g., ascorbate); an isoascorbic acid or salt (e.g., isoascorbate); a sulfite; an ascorbate with a transition metal catalyst, the catalyst comprising a simple metal or salt, or a component, complex or chelate of the transition metal; a transition metal complex or chelate of a polycarboxylic acid, salicylic acid, or polyamine; a reduced form of quinone (e.g., hydroquinone, methylhydroquinone, etc.), a photoreducible dye, or a carbonyl compound which has absorbance in the UV spectrum; and tannin.